

OPINION 2091 (Case 3216)***Spongia ventilabrum* Linnaeus, 1767 (currently *Phakellia ventilabrum*; Porifera): specific name conserved**

Abstract. The Commission has ruled that the specific name of the type species of the axinellid sponge *Phakellia ventilabra* Linnaeus, 1767 [recte *ventilabrum* Article 33.2.2] is conserved. The name was threatened by use of the senior objective synonym *Spongia strigosa* Pallas, 1766 which is suppressed.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Porifera; AXINELLIDAE; *Phakellia*; *Phakellia ventilabrum*; sponges.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that name *strigosa* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Spongia strigosa*, is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.
- (2) The name *Phakellia* Bowerbank, 1862 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Spongia ventilabrum* Linnaeus, 1767, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.
- (3) The name *ventilabrum* Linnaeus, 1767, as published in the binomen *Spongia ventilabra* [recte *ventilabrum* (Article 33.2.2)] and as defined by the neotype designated by Alvarez & Willan (2003) in the Natural History Museum, London BMNH 10.1.1.2687 (specific name of the type species of *Phakellia* Bowerbank, 1862), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.
- (4) The name *strigosa* Pallas, 1766, as published in the binomen *Spongia strigosa* and suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3216

An application to conserve the specific name of *Spongia ventilabra* Linnaeus, 1767 [recte *ventilabrum* Article 33.2.2], the type species of the axinellid sponge genus *Phakellia* Bowerbank, 1862, in which a neotype was designated for *Spongia ventilabra* Linnaeus, 1767, was received from Belinda Alvarez and Richard C. Willan (*Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Australia*) on 3 September 2001. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 60: 16–19 (March 2003). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. A comment on the spelling of the specific name was published in BZN 60: 300 and the emended proposals included on the voting paper.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 2004 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 60: 18 and as amended on the voting paper. At the close

of the voting period on 1 December 2004 the votes were as follows: 20 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 2 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Bouchet and Minelli abstained, Ng was on leave of absence.

Abstaining, Bouchet and Minelli commented that not enough evidence was given in the application of usage of the name *ventilabrum* in the current literature. An informed vote is not possible without further research by the Commissioners themselves. Voting against, Brothers made the same comment. Also voting against, Patterson commented that the case for neotypification is well made and accepted, but the case for suppression of *Spongia strigosa* Pallas, 1766 is not.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- Phakellia* Bowerbank, 1862, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London*, **152**: 1109.
- strigosa*, *Spongia*, Pallas, 1766, *Elenchus Zoophytorum sistens Generum Adumbrationes Generatiorum et Specierum Cognitarum succinctas Descriptiones cum Selectis Auctorum Synonymis*, p. 397.
- ventilabrum*, *Spongia*, Linnaeus, 1767, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 12, vol. 1, p. 1296.

The following is the reference for the designation of the neotype of *Spongia ventilabrum* Linnaeus, 1767:

- Alvarez, B. & Willan, R.C. 2003. *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **60**: 17.